

Tour through Time

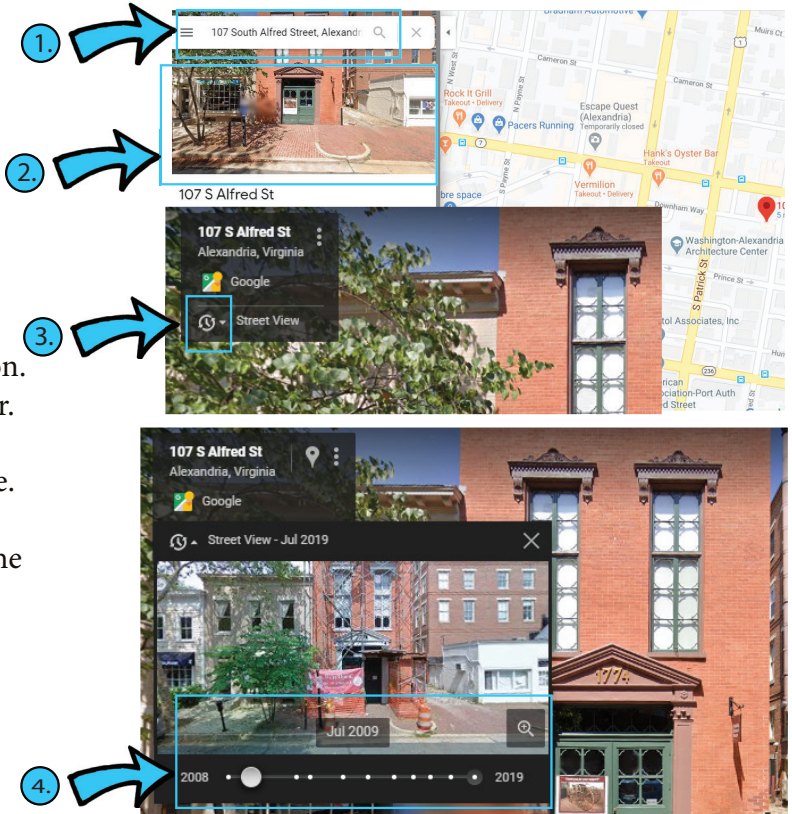
Historians use photographs as one way to understand how an area changed over time. They delve deep into the archives and research files to compare photos to explore these changes. Photographs can be used to bracket when a change may have occurred. For example, if one photograph shows a lamppost and an earlier photograph of the same location does not show this feature, it's a good assumption that the post was put in sometime between the earlier photograph and the later one. You can practice these same skills by using Google Street View! Follow the steps below to “tour” the streetscape around Friendship Firehouse since 2007.

What you will need:

- Access to Google Maps

Turn back time:

1. Open Google Maps and type “107 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA” into the search bar.
2. Click on the image that appears beneath the search bar to open the most recent street view image of Friendship Firehouse.
3. Click the small clock to use the rewind function. The dots on the bar show pictures for each year. Select a dot and then click the inset picture to enlarge it and see the building during that time.
5. Explore how the building and surrounding streetscape has changed over time. Compare the photos to figure out the following changes:
 - What color was the door trim in 2008? What color is it today?
 - When was the Firehouse painted?
 - What was happening to the building in July 2009?



Take it further!

These two photos of the Wilkes Street Tunnel were taken during the Civil War by Andrew J. Russell. The tunnel was opened on May 7, 1851 as part of the eastern division of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, and continued its operation until 1975. Its eastern entrance is now part of Windmill Hill Park. On the left, groups of free and formerly-enslaved contraband laborers employed by the United States Military Railroad repair tracks. On the right, the Senator, a 56,000 pound locomotive used by the United States Military Railroad is about to enter the tunnel. What differences can you see between the two photos? What landmarks or clues can you use to determine which photograph was taken first? Larger versions of the photos can be found on the next page.





Railroad construction workers. Andrew J. Russell, Library of Congress



The Tunnel, Alexandria. Andrew J. Russell, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California. photCL 301 (25)